

Panelist Profile: Brian Will

Hi neighbors! As Sustainable Grandview prepares for our Solar Info Session on **Friday February 26th, at 3:30pm** (see event details here: <https://sg-solarinfo.eventbrite.com>), we are continuing our series of profiles here to introduce you to our panel members.

Today, for our second profile, say hello to Brian Will! Brian has lived in Grandview Heights for 9 years, on Ashland Ave, where he has been making lots of improvements to his 1950's era house. He works at Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center in Staff Education and Training. During the past year, he's been helping in the hospitals and at the COVID vaccination center.

Brian is also part of the Sustainable Grandview leadership team, through which he describes his efforts as being focused on "saving wildlife from the detrimental effects of climate change, planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers, and encouraging the Grandview City Council

to pass pro-environmental legislation." He is currently working on a position paper to present to the Mayor and Council on the environmental dangers of using coal-tar driveway sealant. Brian also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO).



When did you go solar? "My solar installation began in October 2020, shortly after my new roof was installed, and went 'live' in mid-December." The installation was performed by Blue Wave Solar.

Why did you go solar? "I went solar as part of my overall plan to be carbon neutral by the end of 2021"

Benefits you've experienced since going solar: Brian shares that his project was installed to cover about 2/3 of his overall electrical usage, which substantially helps him toward his goal of going carbon neutral. To cover the remaining 1/3 of his usage, he has taken steps to improve his home's energy efficiency, and he reports "I am learning new habits to save energy." Brian also likes the aesthetics of his solar panels. "I like the fact that they have a slim profile on my roof. You hardly notice them"

Additional notes about Brian's installation:

People sometimes assume a solar installation is done to cover all of your electrical usage, but as Brian shared with us, his covers about 67% of his usage, and this is quite common. Some folks cover more, and some folks cover less. There's a great range of choices people can make in sizing their systems, and one principle to keep in mind is that any bit of solar helps reduce one's reliance on fossil fuels. Some people choose smaller arrays because they have limited viable roof space for solar. Others are choosing the size that works best with their project budget. More food for thought: clean energy advocates recommend that you focus on improving your home energy efficiency and changing your habits in conjunction with going solar. For instance, upgrading your attic insulation could save \$200/year on your electric bill (for A/C) and gas bill (for heating). Even though solar is more affordable than ever, the cost of the insulation is still a much cheaper way to reach the same net result. Overall, choosing the size of your array depends on a variety of factors, and we'll talk about these things at the info session